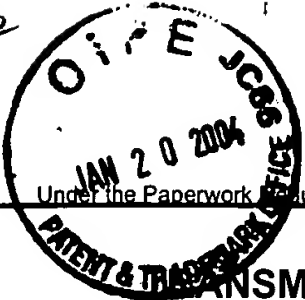


Image

2825



PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/632,494
	Filing Date	August 3, 2000
	First Named Inventor	Raje
	Art Unit	2825
	Examiner Name	Levin, Naum B.
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	MONT-01307US0

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group
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<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	David E. Cromer, Vierra Magen Marcus Harmon & DeNiro LLP
Signature	
Date	1/14/04

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
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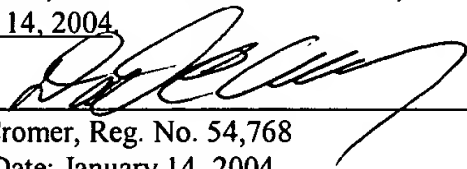


THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application)	<u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>
Inventor(s):)	
SC/Serial No.:)	Art Unit: 2825
Filed:)	Examiner: Levin, Naum B.
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING SIGN-OFF PROTOTYPES FOR THE DESIGN AND FABRICATION OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS)	<u>Customer No. 28554</u>

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

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David E. Cromer, Reg. No. 54,768
Signature Date: January 14, 2004

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF INTERVIEW

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.133 and MPEP § 713, Applicants hereby submit a written statement of the interview conducted December 16, 2003 between Applicants' representatives, David E. Cromer and Burt Magen, and Examiner Naum B. Levin.

Claims 70-81 and 101-122 were discussed. United States Patent No. 6,557,145 ("the '145 patent") was discussed.

Applicants asserted that the '145 patent does not disclose "creating a physical prototype," and "said creating of a physical prototype is performed prior to said creating of said physical design," as recited in claim 101. Applicants further asserted that the '145 patent does not disclose "tracking an error

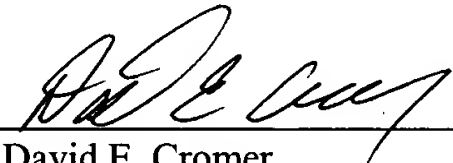
in said predicting of timing,” as also recited in claim 101. The substance of Applicants’ arguments presented during the interview with respect to the ’145 patent and claim 101 is set forth in Applicants’ Response C dated November 21, 2003. The Examiner maintained his assertion, as set forth in the Office Action dated September 25, 2003, that the ’145 patent disclosed these limitations of claim 101.

The Examiner submitted that each independent claim would be allowable over the ’145 patent if amended to include the limitation “wherein generating said sign-off prototype is performed without using a physical design tool,” or “wherein creating said physical prototype is performed without using a physical design tool,” as appropriate. Applicants agreed to an Examiner’s Amendment that would incorporate the appropriate amendment into independent claims 70, 76, 101, 108, 113, and 118. The Examiner’s Amendment dated December 23, 2003 amends each independent claim as agreed during the interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 14, 2004

By: _____


David E. Cromer
Reg. No. 54,768

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